

IN HONOR OF AMELIA ASHLEY-WARD, PUBLISHER OF SUN-REPORTER PUBLISHING COMPANY BY THE SAN FRANCISCO NAACP

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the honor bestowed upon Amelia Ashley-Ward by the San Francisco NAACP for her outstanding career in the field of journalism.

Ms. Ashley-Ward is the publisher of the Sun-Reporter Publishing Company and was recently named "Publisher of the Year" by the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA).

The Sun Reporter Publishing Company publishes nine weekly newspapers throughout Northern California, including the Sun-Reporter, the California Voice and the Oakland Metro Reporter. Through these various publications the African-American community is kept informed of issues affecting African-Americans politically, economically, and culturally.

Ms. Ashley-Ward assumed control of the Sun-Reporter following the death of Dr. Carlton Goodlett, its longtime leader. Since then, she has revitalized the company and continued Dr. Goodlett's crusade for social justice.

Ms. Ashley-Ward's achievements in journalism as a reporter, photo-journalist, Editor of the California Voice, Managing Editor and now Publisher of the Sun-Reporter are significant. These awards include the 1997 Woman of the Year designated by the San Francisco Black Chamber of Commerce; the Leslie Urquhart Community Service Award; and the leaders in Action Award in journalism.

Ms. Ashley-Ward is an executive board member of the NAACP, serving as 2nd Vice President.

Ms. Ashley-Ward is also the Founding President of the Young Adult Christian Movement, which is an outreach organization that discusses faith and how to make one's life better spiritually.

I want to join with the NAACP and with community leaders throughout the Bay Area and the nation to pay tribute to the work and legacy of Ms. Amelia Ashley-Ward.

H.R. 473—PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS FOR CROP DISEASES AND VIRUSES

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I recently introduced H.R. 473, to ensure that farmers who suffer crop losses due to plant viruses and plant diseases are eligible for crop insurance and noninsured crop assistance programs and that agricultural producers who suffer such losses are eligible for emergency loans.

Pandemics of plant viruses and diseases regularly destroy the crops of entire farms and often the crops of entire geographic areas. A single plant virus or disease outbreak can

send farms into bankruptcy and farmers are left without any means of recovering. Agriculture producers can qualify for emergency loans when adverse weather conditions and other natural phenomena have caused severe physical crop property damage or production losses, however, under current law, crop viruses and diseases are not considered "natural disasters" and thus are not eligible for these types of loans.

For example, in Hawaii, the State recently ordered the eradication of all banana plants on the entire island of Kauai and in a 10 square-mile area on the Big Island in an effort to eradicate the banana "bunchy top" virus. A court order required compliance of all who did not cooperate and farmers were ordered to destroy their entire farm and livelihood without any compensation. These farmers do not qualify for emergency loans or disaster assistance and many were left with no other option but to sell their farms.

The survival of our Nation's farmers is largely dependent upon the unpredictable temper of mother nature. We provide our farmers with assistance when adversely affected by severe weather but that is not enough. Emergency loans and disaster assistance must be made available to farmers for crops suffering from calamitous plant viruses and diseases.

H.R. 473 would enable farmers to qualify for crop insurance programs, noninsured assistance programs, and low-interest emergency loans, when devastated by crop losses due to plant viruses and diseases.

I invite my colleagues to cosponsor this worthy legislation and I urge immediate consideration of H.R. 473 in the House.

TRIBUTE TO LILLIAN WEST-ADAMS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute in memory of a dear friend who recently passed away, Mrs. Lillian West-Adams. Mrs. West-Adams was indeed a friend to me and many people in her community and will be missed by all.

Mrs. West-Adams was born December 17, 1940 in Bolton, MS. She was the third of four children. Her education began in the elementary and secondary schools of Hinds County Public School System. She went on to receive a Bachelor of Science Degree in Home Economics from Alcorn College in Lorman, MS.

She left Alcorn for Chicago after receiving her degree. It was there where Lillian accepted a teaching position with the Chicago Board of Education. It was also in Chicago where she met and later married Mr. Lonnie E. Adams. This union was blessed with one daughter, Larissa J. Adams. Education and enriching the lives of young people became her lifelong commitment.

Mrs. West-Adams will always be remembered as a warm and giving person. Whether it was her family, friends or community, she was willing to go the extra mile. In closing Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that Mrs. Lillian West-Adams made a tremendous contribution to the future of America by imparting knowledge to countless numbers of young people. My prayers go out to her family.

SENSE OF CONGRESS URGING CRITICISM OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN CHINA AND TIBET AT ANNUAL MEETING OF UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 28. Congress must strongly signal the administration in urging the United Nations to criticize China's human rights record.

Let me start by thanking the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) for bringing this resolution to the floor, and so many of my other colleagues including the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) for their efforts to focus the attention of this body on the human rights situation in China.

China recognizes the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights as does this great Nation of ours. Unfortunately, China's recognition of this monumental document lives only on paper. China has proven through its repeated mistreatment of its citizens, its continuing genocide in Tibet, and the lack of fundamental freedom of religion and expression that it does not stand for the most basic of human rights. The United States must no longer accept China's defiance of the precepts of the U.N. Declaration on Human Rights, which the rest of the international community accepts and lives by.

China is witnessing the worst crackdown on dissent since the days immediately following the Tiananmen Square massacre. Since this crackdown began in November, the United States along with the international community has done little to condemn China. When three prominent dissidents were given absurd prison sentences for their efforts to register the China Democracy Party, there was barely a sound from our administration. When a leading labor activist was arrested for giving an interview on Radio Free Asia, there was hardly a word. When a computer entrepreneur was arrested for selling e-mail addresses to a magazine which promotes democracy, the silence was deafening. While brave warriors for democracy sit in jail or labor in work camps, the administration has declined to stand up for these people and for the principle they embody. China's actions are indefensible; it is time our Nation stands up and shows China that its actions are unacceptable and the international community is watching.

Promotion and preservation of basic human rights is an issue for the entire international community—it is not China's internal matter. I urge the administration to begin a genuine dialog with the Congress in order to demonstrate the sincerity of its desire to work with the Congress to address the very serious human rights problems in China.

I ask all of you to join me in urging this administration to send a unequivocal message to China by having the United Nations criticize its human rights record. The United States must take the lead in preserving the most basic of rights for the people around the world and it